

# Report on Bachelor / Master Thesis

Institute of Economic Studies, Faculty of Social Sciences, Charles University

<b>Student:</b>	<b>Klára Kantová</b>
<b>Advisor:</b>	<b>Barbara Pertold-Gebicka</b>
<b>Title of the thesis:</b>	How Parental Involvement Affects Education Outcomes of Their Children Master

## **OVERALL ASSESSMENT** (provided in English, Czech, or Slovak):

*Please provide a short summary of the thesis, your assessment of each of the four key categories, and an overall evaluation and suggested questions for the discussion. The minimum length of the report is 300 words.*

### **Short summary**

In her thesis Klára asks whether involvement of parents in rising-up children corresponds to these children's education outcomes. She takes advantage of the rich NLSY97 dataset which follows Americans born between 1980 and 1984 since 1997. This allows observing both individuals' interaction with parents when they were teenagers and their completed educational outcomes, because during the last wave of the survey they were between 35 and 40 years old. Klára thus relates the probability that an individual completes a high school – which is a big deal in the US – to involvement of their parents when respondents were 12-14 years old (i.e. when first interviewed for the NLSY97). Being aware that parental involvement might be related to parental and children characteristics that also predict educational outcomes, Klára controls for a number of relevant factors AND matches individuals with highly involved parents to similar individuals with uninvolved parents. She finds that higher parental monitoring is related to higher probability of completing a high school, while stricter limit setting and limit bleeking are related to lower probability of coeting a high school.

### **Contribution**

While this question is not new in the literature, no study has directly investigated the relationship between parental monitoring or limit-setting and children's academic performance. Estimating this relationship is a clear contribution of the presented thesis. Moreover, Klára attempts to deal with selection, i.e. the fact that parents consciously choose their parenting style, what is another important contribution of her work.

### **Methods**

Klára had hard times when it comes to methodological applications, because I suggested theoretically possible solutions to her and then had little time to guide her through the estimation process. For most of the empirical work she was left with her best judgement. Given the binary nature of the dependent variable, she has correctly chosen a logit model as the baseline estimation approach. The model is correctly estimated and interpreted. I appreciate that Klára has computed the marginal effects for more user-friendly presentation. Next, Klára acknowledges that the baseline model might suffer from endogeneity, what would make the estimated coefficients biased (not only OLS estimates, but also logit estimates, what Klára forgot to stress). This is solved by adding several relevant control variables, i.e. by reducing the omitted variable bias. I very much praise that control variables are carefully chosen based on a deep literature review and inclusion of each variable is explained, not just thrown in the model as in many other theses. On top of this, Klára applied propensity score matching. This is another way of dealing with selection on observables that not only allows to limit the omitted variable bias, but also abstracts from interpolation, i.e. deriving estimates from observationally very different individuals.

While it is also possible to apply matching with a continuous treatment variable, this would be well beyond the curriculum of econometrics at IES. Klára went for the established approach of matching for dichotomous treatment. For this she had to recode the treatment variable – extent of parental

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involvement – into a binary variable, what is well explained in the thesis. Then she explains and applies the matching technique correctly. Every step of estimation is carefully examined and different potential approaches are evaluated.

## Literature

The literature review is a bit nonstandard, but very helpful for the reader. Klára presents not only the literature directly related to the research question, but she also reviews findings that are important to generally understand the estimated relationship. For example, she stresses the endogenous selection of parents to involvement in their children's lives.

## Manuscript form

The manuscript is generally well-organized, but in some places it would benefit from further formatting. For example, tables in the results section could be more self-explanatory.

## Overall evaluation and suggested questions for the discussion during the defense

The presented thesis definitely fulfills the requirements for a master thesis at IES, Faculty of Social Sciences, Charles University and I recommend it for the defense. Despite some imperfections, I suggest a grade A as long as Klára satisfactory answers the following questions:

1. What is the value added of your thesis as compared to the previous literature?
2. Does the common support in the propensity score matching analysis correspond to the full range of data or not? Comment on this.
3. Compare the results of simple regression analysis and propensity score matching. What is the conclusion from this comparison?

The results of the Urkund analysis do / do not indicate significant text similarity with other available sources

## SUMMARY OF POINTS AWARDED (for details, see below):

CATEGORY	POINTS
<i>Contribution (max. 30 points)</i>	27
<i>Methods (max. 30 points)</i>	28
<i>Literature (max. 20 points)</i>	19
<i>Manuscript Form (max. 20 points)</i>	17
<b>TOTAL POINTS (max. 100 points)</b>	<b>91</b>
<b>GRADE (A – B – C – D – E – F)</b>	<b>A</b>

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**NAME OF THE REFEREE:** *Barbara Pertold-Gebicka*

**DATE OF EVALUATION:** **8.6.2021**

*Digitálně podepsáno (8.6.2021)*  
*Barbara Pertold-Gebicka*

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**Referee Signature**

**EXPLANATION OF CATEGORIES AND SCALE:**

**CONTRIBUTION:** *The author presents original ideas on the topic demonstrating critical thinking and ability to draw conclusions based on the knowledge of relevant theory and empirics. There is a distinct value added of the thesis.*

**METHODS:** *The tools used are relevant to the research question being investigated, and adequate to the author's level of studies. The thesis topic is comprehensively analyzed.*

**LITERATURE REVIEW:** *The thesis demonstrates author's full understanding and command of recent literature. The author quotes relevant literature in a proper way.*

**MANUSCRIPT FORM:** *The thesis is well structured. The student uses appropriate language and style, including academic format for graphs and tables. The text effectively refers to graphs and tables and disposes with a complete bibliography.*

**Overall grading:**

TOTAL	GRADE
91 – 100	A
81 - 90	B
71 - 80	C
61 – 70	D
51 – 60	E
0 – 50	F